

# THE JOCKEY'S CALLING HARD

MONEY REWARDS HERE NOT WHAT THEY WERE.

Tortures undergone by knights of the Pligkin to keep down their weight—Murphy's downward—American jockeys in Europe—Racing on Skis.

The actor who takes the part of a jockey in one of the successful plays of the season and tells of the hardships he endures in keeping down to weight reaches the climax by narrating how he once had a glass of water and a caraway seed loaf for breakfast and because the caraway seed loaf in a hollow tooth he was over weight and couldn't strain in an important race. This actor strained a point but didn't go far beyond the bounds of possibility. There is no calling in the world which demands more self-denial, and while in the golden days of the turf several of the knights of the pligkin sacrificed splendid salaries most of them sacrificed health in the effort to outdo nature.

To torture that McLaughlin, Fitzpatrick, Garrison, Murphy, Taral, Griffin and others of the old timers through would make them martyrs in any other cause, and there are others who know the pangs of hunger for months at a time and could not assuage them because they were under ironclad contracts to be fit and ready to ride at a certain weight whenever called upon.

The scale of weights in the United States calls for men of lighter build than those employed in England and France, and for several years boys who tipped the beam at more than 110 pounds have found little encouragement to continue their calling here and have gone abroad, where they could not only earn higher wages but have a few creature comforts occasionally.

In the heyday of racing prosperity in America jockeys earned quite as large retainers here as in any country, but nowadays there is no comparison between what a crack rider may command for his services here and abroad. Turner, Maher, O'Neil, O'Connor, Martin, Shaw, Miles, Lynch, Spencer, Sumner, Radtke and McCormick are some of the American lads who have lost their lots on foreign shores, and each autumn after the close of the regular season for European flat racing finds them, or rather a majority of them, returning home to spend the winter. Others like Odom, Burns and Doggett have forsaken their former calling and remained here, the first training and owning a number of horses on the local tracks, while Burns is seriously contemplating the opening of a public training stable.

Shaw was one of the fortunate fellows and never had to deny himself anything in the perfect world of a rider, and if he had to ride to-day he could make 100 pounds without any trouble. There is no doubt that a medium of his success was due to this fact, for long fasts have a tendency to make a man irritable, and the successful rider must be as cool as the proverbial cucumber in order to be ready to take advantage of every opportunity which comes his way.

No man alive in this country to-day suffered more than Jimmy McLaughlin did in the last half dozen years he was prominent as a rider. A mouthful of champagne, a piece of steak and a cracker or two was often all that would pass his lips for twenty-four hours, and with this was tedious miles on the road, his body swathed in heavy clothing. There were other hours of torture in Turkish baths, where every ounce of flesh that came off felt as though it brought as much bone with it.

McLaughlin and Fitzpatrick were very good friends and they took much of their work together. Fitz was much taller than McLaughlin, but there was not a pound between them when they were at their best. McLaughlin, though of the sturdier build, rode longer than his friend, who found the life of a starter more alluring than that of a jockey.

The opening of spring training frequently found both of these crack riders weighing 150 pounds or more. Unlike many of the present day jockeys who lose in trim by taking part in winter meetings in various parts of the country, the old time riders devoted their months to pleasure and the result was six weeks or two months of agony when the spring campaign opened.

Isaac Murphy, probably the greatest colored rider that ever lived and in his day the equal of any rider black or white in this country, was a tremendous sufferer from reducing. He was interested in going to work about 10 pounds and he lived through the racing season on next to nothing. Champagne was his favorite stimulant and this fact brought about the great jockey's undoing.

He was under contract to J. B. Haggin, the copper king, and was piloting the great horse Salvador and the peerless mare Firenze in the early '90s. The latter probably never had an equal as a weight carrier for her, and she was a tremendous sufferer from reducing. She was a tremendous sufferer from reducing. She was a tremendous sufferer from reducing.

Such an occurrence would be impossible nowadays when the jockeys are segregated and nobody has communication with them save in the presence of an official, and then only on business. The rules of the Jockey Club demand that a rider go to his quarters as soon as he arrives at the course and remain there until he is through for the day. Thus if a rider has an engagement in the sixth race and in none of the other events he is compelled to stay in his quarters, where in the jockey quarters, where every provision is made for his comfort.

A gentleman who spent the last winter in Switzerland, told of the way in which Mark and Martin had been riding. Mark and Martin had been riding for several winters has either won or been close up in the great contests for the levelled championship at St. Moritz and has, in fact, not been outdone, succeeded in annexing the blue ribbon of the isolated world this year, but it was another game than horse racing for and this gentleman had been using skis and riding behind a fleet horse in a mad dash over the mountain roads when the snow had laid out track in front of the Grand Hotel.

# SPEED TRAP SEASON ON SOON

RURAL OPERATIONS BEGIN SERIOUSLY ON JUNE 1.

Country Places in Need of Money Will Take 1st Bleeding Motors Rather Than Tax Their Own Residents—Speed Regulations of Some of the States.

The speed trap season is hardly open. June 1 is the day when the law is off throughout the metropolitan motoring district, and then the constables come out and lay traps for the motorist. When over a town needs money and doesn't intend to raise it by taxing its own residents the next best thing to do is to levy taxes after the manner of the robber barons of the Rhine. If that town is fortunate enough to be on the line of motor traffic the thing is simple.

The game usually is to mark off a course somewhere on a peculiarly inviting road just where it appears to be outside the limits of the town's control. Station here a number of men. One man lies in the grass at one end of the stretch with a stopwatch. The moment a car passes him he snaps the watch. He can tell as soon as the machine has gone a certain distance approximately what its speed is, and then he rises and gives a signal with hand or handkerchief to those hidden down the line a few yards ahead of where the car is.

Time was when the constable merely strode out into the road with hand upraised to halt the car, but when an occasional motorist who had been trimmed before that trap shot the machine at him full tilt the officer of the law had to duck. So the effective schemes are these: Either have a motorcycle man to pursue the motorist or else have a rope to draw across the road. This latter is a very effective bar to progress, and unless the motorist is very determined he will be halted by it.

There was a man once, though, who away up the river near Albany saw some rural police and helps stretch a rope across his path. He was on a slight down grade and he didn't hesitate a moment. He threw on a bit more power and hit the speed up. About the time he hit that rope there was only one man who hadn't been able to make up his mind to let go.

He renewed his youthful experience in snap the whip and the rural papers had a report about ten days later that he would be able to sit up in perhaps a month. It doesn't make much difference to the time whether the motorist is really and truly breaking the law if the town needs the money. Any sort of statement from the man who holds the watch will do; but sometimes the motorist loses the trap time. One day a motorist was going along a good stretch at a nice clip when a point came up about the road they should be taking. They slowed down, in fact came to a complete stop in the road, while the guide man was consulted. Then they picked up again, but ran along slowly for a while, while the matter about the road. After they had gone about twenty yards they passed a disconsolate looking group of men at the roadside, one of them holding a rope, and the other looking ready to snap the whip.

"Skinned you that time, didn't it?" asked the chauffeur, who happened to be the owner.

"Don't get fresh, young fellow," said the constable in the group.

"I'll get as fresh as I please," said the chauffeur, "and if any of you think you can catch me you're welcome to try. With that said, he discharged a full blast of choking smoke toward the party and went on his way.

Not all are so lucky, however, and the penalty varies only according to the district. For instance, one man says that while he is discharged a full blast of choking smoke toward the party and went on his way.

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